Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5061 INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: AS, RP

SUBJECT: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR MANGLAPUS

- 1. FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR RAUL MANGLAPUS IS CURRENTLY VISITING AUSTRALIA, WHERE HE IS PRESENTING SERIES OF LECTURES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT MARCOS. LECTURE GIVEN IN CANBERRA FEB 13 PROBABLY GOOD SAMPLE, WITH MAIN POINTS AS FOLLOWS:
- 1) MARCOS IS DICTATOR AND USURPER WHO WILL FALL IN NEXT FEW YEARS BECAUSE OF INSTABILITY HE HAS BROUGHT.
- 2) THERE IS INCREASING OPPOSITION TO MARCOS FROM CATH-OLIC CHURCH, AND RECENT MANIFEST CALLING FOR BOY-COTT OF PROJECTED REFERENDUM WAS SIGNED BY RELIG-IOUS LEADERS, WHO STATED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE HONEST REFERENDUM UNDER MATRIAL LAW.
- 3) RETURN TO DEMOCRACY AFTER MARCOS WILL BE RELATIVELY BLOODLESS, AS RECENT CHANGES IN THAILAND, PORTUGAL, AND GREECE HAVE SHOWN.
- 4) MANGLAPUS SAID, QTE ARMY SUPPORTS MARCOS BUT IN A CONFUSED SITUATION. THEY ARE SWORN TO UPHOLD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTITUTION BUT WHICH ONE? THE ONE WHICH SAYS MARCOS

SHOULD CEASE TO BE PRESIDENT ON DECEMBER 30 OR THE ONE HE HAS IMPOSED SINCE? END QTE. ARMY MIGHT WELL ASSIST IN MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE MERELY BY STANDING BY AND ALLOWING DEMOCRACY TO BE RESTORED.

- 2. AUSTRALIAN DFA TELLS US THE MANGLAPUS SAW PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE, AND SECRETARY OF DFA, ALAN RENOUF. HOWEVER, NO DFA NOTE TAKERS PRESENT, AND WORKING LEVEL OF DFA DOES NOT KNOW WHAT SUBSTANCE, IF ANY, DISCUSSED. WILLESEE HAD AGREED TO SEE MANGLAPUS ONLY IN WILLESEE'S PRIVATE CAPACITY. DFA HAS PROMISED US RUNDOWN ON MANGLAPUS MEETINGS WHEN IT CATCHES UP WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICERS WHO ACTUALLY MET HIM.
- 3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED MANGLAPUS VISIT BRIEFLY WITH GOP EMB COUNSELLOR, MARCELINO LILAGEAN, FEB 13. LILAGAN WAS RELAXED ABOUT VISIT, RECALLING HIS OWN ASSOIATION WITH MANGLAPUS, WHEN FORMER SENATOR WAS UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. LILAGAN COMMENTED THAT MANGLAPUS IS TOO MUCH OF AN IDEALIST AND DEMANDS MORE FROM POLITICAL SYSTEM IN PHILIPPINES THAN IT CAN PROVIDE. HARROP

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